

Amendments

Please amend the above-identified U.S. application as follows:

In The Claims

Kindly enter the claim amendments, without prejudice, as set forth below. A complete listing of the claims is provided, with a parenthetical indication of the status of each claim and markings to show current changes.

1. (currently amended) A containment boom comprising a plurality of float units and a coupling portion by which adjacent float units are coupled to one another wherein:

each of said float units comprises a housing having an oil shielding surface perpendicular to sea level, a float portion having a buoyant force, and a plummet portion positioned under said float portion;

said float portion and said plummet portion being adjusted so as to locate a water line to approximate middle position of vertical length of said oil shielding surface; and

said coupling portion being a flexible coupling portion for varying a relative position between the adjacent float units;

wherein said coupling portion comprises a rail member; and

said containment boom includes a position stabilizing member for permitting and limiting the relative position of the adjacent float units in upward and downward directions.

2. (cancelled) ~~A containment boom as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said coupling portion comprises at least one fold portion extending upwardly and downwardly.~~

3. (cancelled) ~~A containment boom as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said coupling portion comprises a rail member.~~

4. (cancelled) ~~A containment boom as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said containment boom comprises a position stabilizing member for restoring variation of relative position between the adjacent float units in upward and downward directions.~~

5. (currently amended) A containment boom as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said containment boom comprises:

a lower plummet part hanging from at least one float unit which is selected from said float units;

an adjusting member for adjusting a hanging length of said lower plummet part; and means for remotely operating said adjusting member.

6. (currently amended) A containment boom as claimed in ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~, wherein said containment boom comprises:

a sensor for detecting a relative position between the sea level and at least one float unit which is selected from said float units; and

a screw operative of moving said float unit downwardly in accordance with a detection signal supplied from said sensor.

7. (new) The containment boom of claim 1, wherein said position stabilizing member comprises elastic material.

8. (new) The containment boom of claim 1, wherein said position stabilizing member is secured to wall surfaces of vacant rooms disposed within the adjacent float units.